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## Preliminary Proposal: Trigger Films for Training Graduate Teaching Assistants

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PRELIMINARY PROPOSAL: TRIGGER FILMS FOR  
TRAINING GRADUATE TEACHING ASSISTANTS

Many sessions at the first national conference on the employment and education of teaching assistants (The Ohio State University, November 1986) verified the following:

Graduate students employed as teaching assistants provide a sizeable portion of undergraduate instruction in American universities.

The need to prepare graduate teaching assistants for their instructional responsibilities is widely recognized.

In many universities, programs that respond to this need are under-developed.

Given this situation, any materials that could be useful in enhancing the effectiveness of GTA training likely would find wide application.

One such category of materials is trigger films. Trigger films (and videotapes) are short, high-impact, open-ended vignettes designed to trigger discussions about problems and issues. Characteristically, these films represent true-life situations, draw viewers into the discussions quickly, and allow for easy adaptation to specific circumstances. They have been used successfully in many different training settings in higher education and elsewhere for nearly 20 years.

It is proposed that a project be initiated to produce a series of ten trigger films focussing on the central concepts, techniques and issues of college teaching. The films would be oriented to GTAs, although they could be used in seminars with college teachers at any level of experience.

The director for the project would be Linc. Fisch, who has been involved in the production of over 50 trigger films since 1968. These include series in learning and teaching, college administration, residence halls work, alcohol education, preceptorship training, social work and allied health. He is the author of Trigger Films: Development and Use (National Medical Audiovisual Center, 1979).

The films would be produced on videotape through the Film and Videotape Production Unit of ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ University, which is well-known for the quality of its media production. The films would be made available nationally at minimal cost to purchasers.

For further information, please contact Linc. Fisch, 3309 Bellefonte Drive, Lexington, KY 40502, telephone 606+278-1457 or 257-3696.

Del-  
Any comments or suggestions on this?  
Linc.  
1/23/87

Lexington, KY  
November 21, 1986

TO: Members of the 1985 POD Newsletter Exchange Network

FROM: Linc. Fisch

At the 1986 POD Conference, several persons indicated interest in being part of the exchange network. Their names are appended to the list that Linda distributed last year. We'd appreciate it if you would include them in any regular mailings.

Also note that my own address has changed (only to my home address, which is always a safer bet for reaching me).

Thanks!

*Linc.*

PS: I'm enclosing a couple of handouts we used at POD 1986. You might find them of interest.

Lexington, KY  
November 21, 1986

TO: New persons added to the POD Newsletter Exchange Network

FROM: Linc. Fisch

As you can see from the above memo, I have initiated a process to get you on the newsletter mailing circuit. I thought this would be easier than have you write to each of the previous members and ask to be placed on their list.

'Twas good to have you in our session at Hidden Valley. I hope you found the presentation useful and that good things will come from it.

*Linc.*

*Del*

*I'm only two weeks (or one conference) behind!  
Good to see you in Columbus. Thanks for all your  
good efforts at both conferences! Linc.*